



**SUSTAINABLE LYNCHBURG  
PROGRESS SURVEY REPORT  
JANUARY 2013  
(Revised)**

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## BACKGROUND

In February 2008, staff began working on a Sustainable City Initiative with the purpose of providing a framework by which the principles of sustainability are utilized in developing policy and in the City's day to day practices. The Sustainable City Initiative fosters improved communication and leads to effectiveness and efficiencies in planning and day to day operations. The work to date has served to strengthen working relationships among departments, encourage collective ownership for problem solving and will improve long term planning and maximization of resources.

Staff identified eleven (11) Elements of Sustainability: Arts and Culture, Citizen Engagement and Social Capital, Economic Development, Healthy and Active Living, Infrastructure, Land Use, Lifelong Learning, Natural and Environmental Resources, Neighborhoods, Safe Community and Transportation. In August 2008, Deputy City Manager Bonnie Svrcek presented the Sustainable City Initiative to Lynchburg City Council at which time City Council adopted a resolution supporting the initiative including the Statement of Purpose, Vision, Definitions, Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives. City Council also appointed Councilmember Michael Gillette to serve as Council's liaison to the Sustainable City Initiative committee to serve as the formal point of communication between staff and Council on sustainable issues, to work continually with staff to advance sustainable issues consistent with the Council's priorities, and to report periodically to Council on how its decisions impact the sustainability efforts.

Staff has provided annual reports to City Council since 2008 and has continued working on the effort by strengthening the goals and identifying initiatives for each of those goals. The committee solicited input on the initiatives from the organization's Leadership Team and key leaders. The initiative was also renamed **Sustainable Lynchburg**.

This report is a broad summary of Accomplishments, Works in Progress and Critical Issues/Concerns for the Future and documents work done internally by staff to support the vision of *a diverse community working together to promote a healthy and sustainable city with social, cultural, economic and environmental vitality, now and for future generations*. This report is not intended to be inclusive of all activities in each of the elements.

# SUSTAINABLE LYNCHBURG VISION

*Lynchburg is a diverse community working together to promote a healthy and sustainable City with social, cultural, economic and environmental vitality, now and for future generations.*

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ⚙ The City recognizes that financial responsibility, environmental stewardship, economic development, and social and racial equity are integrated elements of sustainability.
- ⚙ Sound financial management and the appropriate use of taxpayers' dollars are critical foundations to attaining the goals of sustainability.
- ⚙ Sustainability serves as a filter for City decision making and development of policy.
- ⚙ Engaging the community, building social capital and encouraging citizen leadership are fundamental elements to working towards a sustainable City.
- ⚙ A sustainable City is achieved through partnerships with the business community, citizens and local government.
- ⚙ All local government functions will work in support of a sustainable City.
- ⚙ The City works to protect, preserve, and restore the natural environment.
- ⚙ The City promotes active living, advances safe communities, and works to improve the social and physical environment.
- ⚙ The City works towards a sustainable infrastructure.
- ⚙ A sustainable City set priorities and evaluates progress through performance indicators and outcomes.



## Arts and Culture



City Council Assessment • September 2011 • Significant



Staff Assessment • December 2012 • Significant

**Staff Assessment:** With the success of the Arts and Cultural District Grants Program, the continued success of the City's Museum System programs, and a renewed focus and expansion of First Fridays, staff believes that progress has increased in the area of sustainable arts and culture. Conversations are continuing with the James River Council on the Arts and Humanities in creating a partnership where the City will assist in the facilitation of placing art in public places.



City Council Assessment of Progress • December 2012 • Significant

**Survey Analysis:** City Council (6.9) and staff (7.0) rated FY 2012 progress on Arts and Culture similarly. Council rated this element 5.0 in September 2011. Three Council members rated this element 6.0 while two rated it 7 and two rated the element at 8.

### City Council comments:

- "...will probably be a ten (10) when the Academy is completed."
- "...other than designating an arts zone, little has changed."
- "...we do need to attract some interesting shows, but without the Academy complete, I don't know how to do this."

# Arts and Culture

## Major Accomplishments

- ⚙ Despite budget challenges, Library leadership developed a staffing plan to keep the Branch library open with reduced hours in FY 2012 and funding was restored to keep the Branch open in FY 2013 with unreduced hours.
- ⚙ Sculpture created by children in Lynchburg City Schools has been showcased in the Fifth Street Roundabout.
- ⚙ Grant funding from the Arts and Cultural District in the amount of \$29,975 coupled with \$5,000 from the Virginia Commission for the Arts has been awarded to 13 entities. These grants leveraged over \$200,000 in private direct investment with an estimated economic impact of more than \$600,000, resulting in 10 new events and attractions in the District including the return of Lynchburg touchstone community experiences like the Batteau Festival and Riverflick Film Series. The Arts and Cultural Project Grants have attracted new visitors to the District and broadened the individuals and organizations engaging arts and cultural activities in Lynchburg. Grant recipients include: Amazement Square, Academy of Fine Arts, Virginia University of Lynchburg, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Opera on the James, 5<sup>th</sup> Street Community Development Corporation, Lynch's Landing, James River Council for the Arts and Humanities, Young Entrepreneurial Spirits Program, Dance Theater of Lynchburg and more.
- ⚙ City staff and partners have continued to promote the Get! Downtown event that is wildly successful.
- ⚙ In FY 2012, 5,767 persons visited the Lynchburg Museum at the Old Court House compared to 6,187 in FY 2011, a decrease of 6% from the prior year. In FY 2012, 9,967 persons visited Point of Honor compared to 9,100 in FY 2011, an increase of 9%. Outreach programs (taken to schools, similar sites) increased 56% serving 938 persons in FY 2011 and 1,472 in FY 2012. *Approximately 40% of Point of Honor visitation is from free outdoor public events.*

## Major Works in Progress

- ⚙ Conversations have begun with the James River Arts Council on developing a partnership to create an "Art in Public Places" program.
- ⚙ Final design for the Children's Reading Room (funded by St. John's Episcopal Church) and the Friends of the Library (with seed money from the City) is nearly complete. Midtown Connector, GLTC Transfer Center, Campbell Avenue/Odd Fellows Road Master Plan and Lower Bluffwalk all proceeding.

## Critical Issues/Concerns for the Future

- ⚙ Viability of maintaining the Museum system at its current level of operation.
- ⚙ The contract with the Lynchburg Regional Chamber of Commerce expires in December 2013. Discussions will need to begin regarding the future of tourism service delivery.





## Citizen Engagement and Social Capital



City Council Assessment • September 2011 • Moderate



Staff Assessment • December 2012 • Significant

**Staff Assessment:** Staff assessment is that there has been significant progress in the area of Citizen Engagement and Social Capital. The City is continuing to improve its use of technology in order to engage citizens. Since this report was first written, the number of Facebook followers has increased from approximately 250 to 840, and there has been a substantial increase in the number of First to Know subscribers as well as an increase in Twitter followers. Significant progress has been made on the development of a new website with an estimated launch in early 2013. The new website will allow access by mobile devices.

Communications and Marketing collaborates with Lynchburg City Schools (LCS) Public Information Office in jointly publishing the City Source and airs cross channel programming on LTV - 15 and LCS - Channel 17. A successful effort was made to engage the public in an after-action review of the derecho and the City has increased efforts to educate the public concerning emergency preparedness.



City Council Assessment of Progress • December 2012 • Significant

**Survey Analysis:** City Council rated Citizen Engagement and Social Capital progress at 6.6 during FY 2012 compared to a staff rating of 7.0. In September 2011, Council rated this element 5.0. Council member ratings were quite dispersed with two Council members giving this element a 5.0, two Council members giving it a 6.0 and one Council member each rating Citizen Engagement and Social Capital a 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0. This element was rated 5.0 by Council in September 2011.

### City Council comments:

- "... when the new website is completed and access by mobile phone is available this element will increase to significant progress."
- "Again, some progress which is good but not an increase of 2 points."
- "I think that we have done an excellent job soliciting citizen input. We probably can do more with volunteerism."

# Citizens Engagement and Social Capital

## Major Accomplishments

- ⚙ Successfully conducted citizen engagement process on the FY2013 budget.
- ⚙ Improved and increased utilization of social media including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.
- ⚙ Citizen Academy and Police Academy continue to be successful in attracting students.
- ⚙ Town/Gown Meetings continue to be productive avenue to communicate with local colleges and universities.
- ⚙ Get!Downtown attendance increased and included a Stay!Downtown feature in 2012.
- ⚙ Continued to conduct citizen surveys to gather input concerning targeted issues (i.e. City's response to windstorm, etc.)

## Major Works in Progress

- ⚙ The City's new website will be launched in December 2012 with improved access for mobile devices.
- ⚙ Celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Lynchburg Citizens Academy with establishment of an alumni organization.
- ⚙ Second annual *Lights! Camera! Lynchburg* video Contest

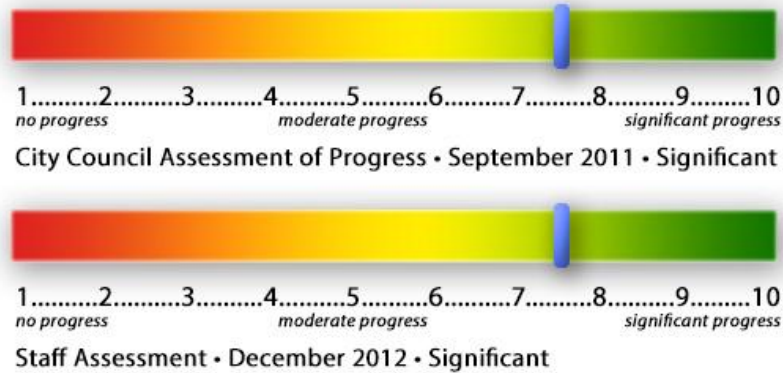
## Critical Issues/Concerns for the Future

- ⚙ Development of a process that would serve to guide the community through a collaborative and creative process that would lead to a shared community vision and common values. This vision would act as one filter in making long range plans and critical budget decisions.
- ⚙ Investigating possibility of obtaining funding for Reverse 911 and/or low frequency radio station to improve communication efforts with citizens.





## Economic Development



**Staff Assessment:** The City is continuing to make significant progress in accomplishing Sustainable Economic Development goals and objectives. City Staff and the Lynchburg Economic Development Authority, in collaboration with numerous partner organizations, have worked to inform, engage and support the City's business community. The City received several grants to leverage resources; a new OED website has been launched to provide information to attract, grow and retain business in the City; the City's two Enterprise Zones were amended to maximize eligibility; and the Office of Economic Development executed an application for a Foreign Trade Zone.



**Survey Analysis:** City Council (7.3) and staff (7.5) rated Economic Development similarly and consistent with Council's September 2011 assessment of 7.5. Again, Council was quite divergent in their ratings on this element: Two Council members each rated progress in FY 2012 at 6.0, 7.0, and 8.0 and one Council member rated progress in Economic Development at 9.0.

### City Council comments:

- ...a reflection on the sale of the Fresh Market property at Lakeside Drive and 501 tarnished the "otherwise excellent job" performed by the Director of Economic Development.
- "We need to divert some of the funds we are using for tourism toward more straightforward economic development."

# Economic Development

## Major Accomplishments

- ⚙ Office of Economic Development was awarded a Brownfields Grant from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership for \$41,000 to assist with assessment, remediation and stabilization on the 700 block of 5th Street. OED provided funding for the application for 5th Street to be designated a State & Federal Historic District to encourage development.
- ⚙ Office of Economic Development received a grant of \$5000 from the Virginia Commission for the Arts for the James River Arts & Cultural District. Awarded 12 Arts & Cultural District Grants totaling \$29,925 to produce a total estimated economic impact of \$613,072 in the Arts & Cultural District.
- ⚙ Lynchburg's Enterprise Zones administered by the Office of Economic Development awarded over \$375,000 in grants to commercial property owners for over \$47 million in capital investment and the creation of 107 new jobs.
- ⚙ Launched the Economic Development Authority "OpportunityLynchburg.com" website to provide 24/7 access to information and services to retain, grow and attract business in the City of Lynchburg.
- ⚙ Governor announces VDOT funding for Odd Fellows Road-460 Interchange - \$30 million project. Based on feedback from the new neighborhood economic development pilot, the Office of Economic Development seized the opportunity to fund the current Campbell Avenue and Odd Fellows Road Corridors Land Use & Master Plan Study when the above Interchange was announced to maximize economic development and community livability.

## Major Works in Progress

- ⚙ Local Enterprise Zone Redevelopment Grant approved to support redevelopment and increase revenues.
- ⚙ Establishing a Defense Zone.
- ⚙ Partnership with the New River Valley to become a Foreign Trade Zone.
- ⚙ Workforce Development Initiatives.
- ⚙ Enterprise Zone Amendment 2012.
- ⚙ Business Development Strategic Plan.

## Critical Issues/Concerns for the Future

- ⚙ Resources available to support activity.



## Healthy and Active Living

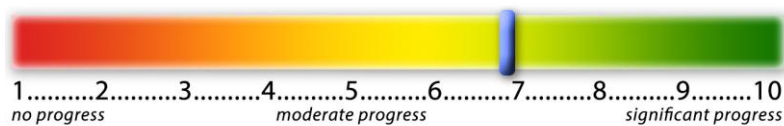


City Council Assessment • September 2011 • Moderate



Staff Assessment of Progress: Significant

**Staff Assessment:** Staff assessment of City-wide progress toward accomplishing the Healthy and Active Living goals and objectives is significant. The Action Community for Health and Environmental (ACHIEVE) Action and Response Team and former Mayor Joan Foster's endorsement and leadership of the Live Healthy Lynchburg initiative resulted in major accomplishments. Community assessments were completed, awareness campaigns developed and implemented, all leading to numerous policy discussions and delivery of programs. Multi-modal transportation options expanded; new partnerships and expanded funding sources allowed the "Safe Routes to School" program to move forward; progress was made to improve access to healthy foods; park improvements increased opportunity for physical activity; and the City continued to model best management practices in organizational wellness and health programs.



City Council Assessment of Progress • December 2012 • Significant

**Survey Analysis:** City Council rated Healthy and Active Living 6.9 while staff rated the FY 2012 progress 8.0. In September 2011, City Council rated this element at 4.0. Two Council members each rated progress on this element at 6.0 and 8.0 while one Council member each rated FY 2012 progress at 4.0, 7.0, and 9.0.

### City Council comments:

- "This seems to be in line with accomplishments."
- "This has been a tremendous team effort and has resulted in much progress being made because of everyone working together in a very strategic manner."

# Healthy and Active Living

## Major Accomplishments

- ⚙ City actively participated on the Action Community for Health, Innovation and Environmental (ACHIEVE) Action and Response Team. Team created a Community Action Plan, conducted community assessments, and spearheaded community projects, including the Live Healthy Lynchburg Initiative, Work Healthy Coalition, formation of the Lynchburg Area Food Council, and projects funded through the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth.
- ⚙ Improved multi-modal transportation options, including completing Phase I and IIA of the Wards Road Pedestrian/Bicycle Plan. In addition Region 2000 Local Government Council partnered with the City and Lynchburg City Schools to initiate a Safe Routes to School Program. The partnership received two Prevention Connection Mini-Grants, completed Travel Plans for three elementary schools and received over \$375,000 in grant funds to improve infrastructure to improve walking conditions around Perrymont, TC Miller and Dearington elementary schools.
- ⚙ City modeled a work healthy environment by encouraging employee participation in the Live Healthy Lynchburg initiative, Lynchburg Ten Miler/ Four Miler, 100 Mile Challenge, workplace Weight Watchers program, Health On the Go programs, the Health Management Program and exercise and fitness programs.
- ⚙ Improved recreation facilities, including completing Phase I of the Lynchburg Dog Park; constructing a universally accessible playground in Riverside Park; and substantially completing Allen-Morrison Demolition.

## Major Works in Progress

- ⚙ Improve infrastructure to increase active living and transportation options. Improvements include the renovation and extension of the Creekside Trail, and construction of the Lower Bluff Walk, Mid-town Connector, Wards Road Pedestrian improvements and SRTS sidewalk improvements.
- ⚙ Renovation of the Miller Center, increasing opportunities to participate in wellness and fitness recreation programs.
- ⚙ Improvements to recreation infrastructure, including the athletic field at Blackwater Creek Athletic Area, exercise circuit equipment at Peakview Park, and improving trails, basketball and tennis courts in Riverside Park.
- ⚙ Continued City staff participation on the ACHIEVE Action and Response Team.

## Critical Issues/Concerns for the Future

- ⚙ Inability to fund trail, park, recreation facility, school ground and multimodal infrastructure improvements.
- ⚙ Negative economic impact on businesses and the City from rising healthcare costs, loss of productivity and loss of quality of life, related to the obesity epidemic.
- ⚙ Potential positive and negative impacts and uncertainty (costs) of the Affordable Care Act.
- ⚙ Citizens' inability to access healthy and affordable food.



## Infrastructure



City Council Assessment • September 2011 • Moderate



Staff Assessment • December 2012 • Moderate

**Staff Assessment:** Staff Assessment is that City-wide progress toward accomplishing Infrastructure goals and objectives has been moderate. There have been significant accomplishments in implementing a stormwater utility, the CSO program, and various transportation projects. However, it is important to note that adequate investment in aging infrastructure is critical. At current investment levels, we risk compromising cost effectiveness and service delivery. Areas where progress continues to be made include: CSO where a new direction will potentially save millions, Juvenile Detention Home, Heritage High School, Midtown Connector, 5th Street, and various bridges.



City Council Assessment of Progress • December 2012 • Moderate

**Survey Analysis:** City Council rated Infrastructure 4.7 while staff rated it 3.7. One Council member rated this element 3.0 while two Council members each rated progress in FY 2012 on Infrastructure 4.0, 5.0, and 6.0. Council's September 2011 rating for Infrastructure was 4.0.

### City Council comments:

- "It looks like staff dropped it because of future challenges-rank needs to be based on progress-to-date."
- "Our new approach to CSO looks promising."

# Infrastructure

## Major Accomplishments

- ⚙ James River Interceptor Divisions 4 & 5 nearly complete.
- ⚙ Continued progress on the CSO Program— we have eliminated 108 of 132 overflow points.
- ⚙ Implemented a stormwater utility and now will have a dedicated source of funding for stormwater infrastructure needs.
- ⚙ Pedestrian Bridge and Trails – Pedestrian access to shopping from Liberty and reducing the number of vehicle trips.
- ⚙ Rivermont Bridge – Upgrades to enhance the community and maintenance work to extend the serviceable life.

## Major Works in Progress

- ⚙ CSO Long Term Control Plan Update – may result in a significant change in direction for the CSO Program with a possibility of completing the program within the next decade.
- ⚙ James River Interceptor Division 3A – work just started on this critical component of the CSO Program. This project will significantly reduce the frequency of CSO overflows at one of the most active overflow points.
- ⚙ Midtown Connector – Replacing underground infrastructure while construction takes place, improving pedestrian access and community pride.
- ⚙ Juvenile Detention Home – Additional facility to improve continuum of care, streamline services and realize efficiencies.
- ⚙ Kemper Street Bridge – Replacing deficient bridge to improve lifespan while enhancing safety, pedestrian access and creating gateway to Midtown.

## Critical Issues/Concerns for the Future

- ⚙ Adequate funding for the Central Business District Water Line Replacement Program.
- ⚙ Sewer system issues including: capacity issues in Burton Creek may require the replacement of this interceptor, providing sewer service to unsewered areas and ongoing sewer system maintenance needs.
- ⚙ Adequate CSO funding.
- ⚙ Stormwater Infrastructure – as we complete more storm system evaluations, more replacement and renewal needs are discovered.
- ⚙ College Lake Dam Upgrades – Costly improvements are required within the next 3 years to bring structure up to current State Dam Safety Regulations.



## Land Use

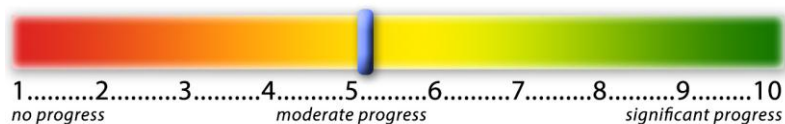


City Council Assessment • September 2011 • Moderate



Staff Assessment • December 2012 • Moderate

**Staff Assessment:** Staff assessment is that City-wide progress toward accomplishing Land Use goals and objectives is continuing with some improvement. The City completed its Zoning Diagnostic review based on significant community input and City Council endorsed the findings of the study, as well as the need to revise the Zoning Ordinance. Progress continues on key transportation and infrastructure initiatives.



City Council Assessment of Progress • December 2012 • Moderate

**Survey Analysis:** City Council (5.1) and staff (5.0) rated progress on this element similarly. In September 2011, City Council rated progress on Land Use at 4.0. One Council member maintained the 4.0 rating while four Council members rated progress at 5.0 and two Council members provided a rating of 6.0.

### City Council comments:

- “The new 460/Odd Fellows Road interchange will open the Tyreeanna area up for development.”
- “Lynchburg needs to be ready to take advantage of that opportunity” and “We still need the zoning rewrite.”



# Land Use

## Major Accomplishments

- ⚙ Planning Commission submitted its ninth annual report detailing the ongoing implementation of the City's Comprehensive Plan 2002-2020.
- ⚙ Completed diagnostic review of City's Zoning Ordinance.
- ⚙ Implemented software upgrades to improve efficiency and internal communication in plan review, project management, permitting and licensing, and project management.
- ⚙ Significant progress on a variety of connectivity/infrastructure efforts, including Wards Road Pedestrian Improvements phase IIA, 5th Street phase II and Jefferson Street.

## Major Works in Progress

- ⚙ The Planning Commission initiated the 10-year review of the City of Lynchburg Comprehensive Plan 2002-2020. Review will highlight issues identified during the zoning diagnostic review to determine what, if any, revisions are required to Comprehensive Plan.
- ⚙ City Council approved funding to revise the ordinance in September 2012. Revision process will consist of community engagement, indexing and text amendments necessary to revise the ordinance and official zoning map.
- ⚙ Improve access to plan, inspection and infrastructure data to provide more options for the public to review and submit development projects.
- ⚙ Midtown Connector, GLTC Transfer Center, Campbell Avenue/Odd Fellows Road Master Plan and Lower Bluffwalk all proceeding.

## Critical Issues/Concerns for the Future

- ⚙ Review City Council vision, Sustainable Lynchburg report card and Annual Report on the Activities on Planning Commission and identify opportunities to assess progress relative to one another.
- ⚙ Discussion of role of density, use and public facilities on the growth of the City.
- ⚙ Revise City Code governing Map Room policies to streamline procedures for connecting to public infrastructure and data management.
- ⚙ Long term funding of infrastructure maintenance and reimbursements as they relate to development within the City.



## Lifelong Learning

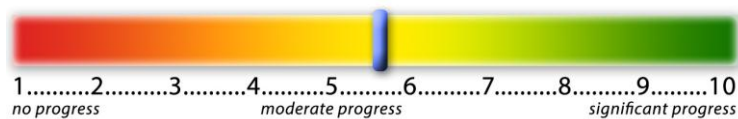


City Council Assessment of Progress • September 2011 • Significant



Staff Assessment • December 2012 • Moderate

**Staff Assessment:** Staff assessment is that while there has been some progress in this area there has not been enough movement towards meeting the goals. The Young Entrepreneurs Academy continues to recruit participants. The program has been endorsed by Governor McDonnell. Progress continues to be made regarding the implementation of the new truancy policy and the second truancy (Learnfare) position has been filled. A diverse group of professionals meets quarterly with the local J&DR Court judges to have on-going dialogue about truancy.



City Council Assessment of Progress • December 2012 • Moderate

**Survey Analysis:** City Council rated progress on Lifelong Learning in FY 2012 at 5.6 while staff rated this element at 5.0. Council rated this element 7.0 in September 2011. Four Council members provided an FY 2012 rating of 5.0, two Council members rated Lifelong Learning 6.0, and one Council member rated this element 7.0.

### City Council comments:

- "This is what the private sector is for. Why is this here?"
- "I agree with staff on this. I probably need to understand this element better to assess correctly."
- "I agree with staff comments."

# Lifelong Learning

## Major Accomplishments

- ⚙ The “Keep Them Home” Committee partnered with the Dearington community and numerous businesses to sponsor the first back to school event. Service providers provided information about their services and backpacks with school supplies were given to every student who attends Dearington Elementary School.
- ⚙ New Lynchburg City Schools’ Truancy Policy.
- ⚙ The Lynchburg Beacon of Hope program (to provide LCS students with the tools and resources to attain a post-secondary education) is now operating in both high schools.
- ⚙ The development of the VA Region 2000 Career and Technical STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Academy.
- ⚙ Parenting classes now offered by Central VA Community Services Board and Presbyterian Homes and Family Services.

## Major Works in Progress

- ⚙ The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA).
- ⚙ City Employee Workforce Development System – Engaging and Developing Great Employees (EDGE) staff development program continuing to evolve to meet employees' and organization's needs.

## Critical Issues/Concerns for the Future

- ⚙ The new LCS truancy policy and the high number of truant students.
- ⚙ The further eroding of all funding sources.



## Natural & Environmental Resources



City Council Assessment • September 2011 • Moderate



Staff Assessment • December 2012 • Moderate

**Staff Assessment:** Staff assessment indicates moderate success has been made towards meeting the goals set forth within the Natural and Environmental Resources element. Improving the stormwater program through implementation of a stormwater utility has been a key focus of many departments over the last year and, with additional impacts expected from more stringent federal and state regulations, an even greater emphasis will need to be placed on this program moving forward. While improvements in the stormwater arena are noticeable, reaching goals in air quality, ecological footprint reduction and resource preservation have been more elusive.



City Council Assessment of Progress • December 2012 • Moderate

**Survey Analysis:** City Council rated FY 2012 progress on Natural and Environmental Resources at 5.9 while staff provided a 4.0 rating which was the same rating City Council assigned to the progress on this element in September 2011. Council member ratings were quite dispersed: two Council members each rated progress in FY 2012 at 4.0 and 5.0 while one Council member each rated progress at 6.0, 7.0, and 10.0.

### City Council comments:

- "Way too much progress from more government requirements from the EPA and DEQ. The fees that our citizens have to pay are unsustainable."
- "The result is unmeasurable."
- "Staff analysis is on target."

# Natural & Environmental Resources

## Major Accomplishments

- ⚙ Reorganized and implemented a stormwater utility that will provide dedicated funding for stormwater and allow for the more efficient and effective management of the City's Stormwater Program.
- ⚙ Partially as a result of our stormwater utility, we have received grants from: (1) National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the Center for Watershed Protection to enhance our illicit discharge detection and elimination program and (2) University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center to help us develop creative financing for the stormwater program and assist with the selection of the most cost effective stormwater best management practices.
- ⚙ Work with James River Association on River Hero Homes to recognize property owners for their efforts to reduce stormwater and pollution leaving their property.

## Major Works in Progress

- ⚙ Working on various State Stormwater advisory panels to help develop policy that is affordable and achievable while accomplishing the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan.
- ⚙ Wastewater Plant Secondary Clarifier upgrades – this is a significant project that will enable higher sustained flows through the wastewater treatment plant with an improved level of treatment which will reduce the volume of CSO overflows and improve effluent quality.
- ⚙ Development of a complex water quality model of the streams and James River in Lynchburg to provide a tool to make effective decisions about the CSO and Stormwater Programs.
- ⚙ Continued development of the stormwater program to meet regulatory requirements, improve water quality, and address stormwater infrastructure needs.
- ⚙ Pursuing a grant through USEPA to identify and eventually evaluate potential brownfield sites through the City's Midtown area.

## Critical Issues/Concerns for the Future

- ⚙ Adequate resources for Stormwater regulations, new stormwater permit and Chesapeake Bay and other TMDL's.
- ⚙ Keeping stormwater rates as low as possible.
- ⚙ Balancing the need to create new resource protection ordinances with the desire to maintain a business friendly atmosphere.
- ⚙ Maintain existing mutually beneficial community environmental partnerships while cultivating new ones that expand our audience in increasingly difficult economic times.



## Neighborhoods

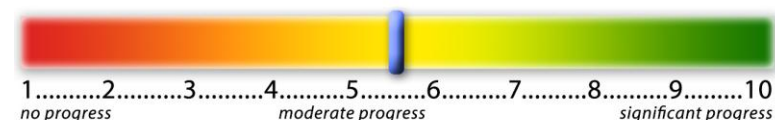


City Council Assessment of Progress • September 2011 • Significant



Staff Assessment • December 2012 • Moderate

**Staff Assessment:** City staff is continuing to work with the Friends of Tinbridge Hill on neighborhood improvements. Fifth Street and Downtown revitalization also continues. Once the public sector construction is complete, it is hoped that private sector development will be activated. No new initiatives have begun with other neighborhoods.



City Council Assessment of Progress • December 2012 • Moderate

**Survey Analysis:** Progress on Neighborhoods during FY 2012 was rated 5.6 by City Council and 6.0 by staff. In September 2011, Council rated progress on this element at 7.0. One Council member provided a progress rating of 1.0, one Council member provided a rating of 5.0, while two Council members provided a progress rating of 6.0, and three Council members provided a rating of 7.0.

### City Council comments:

- “This (Tinbridge Hill neighborhood improvements) was all done with public funds, which is unsustainable to perform in every neighborhood of the City.”
- “I have not heard much about this lately and do not know why, perhaps it is due to lack of marketing of what is going on or perhaps some of the neighborhoods’ movers and shakers are getting older and no new generation has come forth to continue.”
- “Fifth Street construction put a damper on this one.”

# Neighborhoods

## Major Accomplishments

- ⚙ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds allocated to Tinbridge Hill for a pilot sustainable neighborhood.
- ⚙ Successfully executed the annual National Night Out with 16 groups hosting events.
- ⚙ Parks and Recreation continued to operate seven neighborhood centers.

## Major Works in Progress

- ⚙ Construction continues on Jefferson Street South sidewalk and pedestrian access improvements; Bluffwalk design is complete and bids will be received in October.
- ⚙ Fifth Street Revitalization (Phase II) is under construction.
- ⚙ Development of a sustainable neighborhood plan for Tinbridge Hill in partnership with the Friends of Tinbridge Hill.
- ⚙ Implementation of Safe Routes to School grant.
- ⚙ Development of a trail entrance to Blackwater Creek Trail in the Tinbridge Hill neighborhood and extend the trail (Creekside Trail) to Lynchburg College.

## Critical Issues/Concerns for the Future

- ⚙ Provide safe and affordable housing choices; form a housing coalition that will develop methods to implement the housing strategy that was approved by City Council.
- ⚙ Improve neighborhood connectivity; improve pedestrian and bicycle connections between neighborhoods and other destinations.





## Safe Community



**Staff Assessment:** Staff assessment is that City-wide progress toward accomplishing Safe Community goals and objectives is continuing. City staff and diverse community partners have worked together successfully during this period in managing emergency situations, expanding public safety initiatives, and taking initial action to stabilize our public safety workforce. Continuing progress is ongoing in the areas of housing and neighborhood revitalization, social media outreach, and expanding City government's emergency management functional capacity.



**Survey Analysis:** City Council (7.0) and staff (7.0) were in alignment on the progress in FY 2012 on the Safe Community element. One Council member rated FY 2012 progress at 4.0 while three Council members each rated progress at 8.0 and 9.0. Council rated this element at 7.0 in September 2011.

### City Council comments:

- "I think we have demonstrated great community strength regarding emergency response and safety."
- "Being safely sustainable means that we should push for citizens to be able to protect themselves. It is not sustainable to have a cop at everyone's corner, or in every school. We need to allow our citizens and employees to be able to defend themselves. The sentence that describes this has a poor premise that is unsustainable. You can't just have the local government do more."

# Safe Community

## Major Accomplishments

- ⚙ City government and other service providers worked collaboratively with community members to meet the challenges posed by the June 29, 2012 derecho windstorm. This event provided valuable lessons in community preparedness and disaster response that will enhance future emergency management effectiveness.
- ⚙ The number of functional Neighborhood Watch groups has expanded from 40 to 55 City-wide since July 1, 2011.
- ⚙ The City and the Police Department-sponsored “Citizens Academy” educational programs are ongoing and well-attended mechanisms for fostering citizen education and engagement.
- ⚙ Public safety salary adjustments approved during FY13 City budget development have served to enhance recruitment and retention of public safety employees – our most critical community safety “infrastructure.”

## Major Works in Progress

- ⚙ City and City Department websites are in the process of being updated to provide more convenient public access and a broader range of public service and public safety information.
- ⚙ Renovation of the vacant Armstrong School property into neighborhood housing and green space is planned as a collaboration among Rush Homes, City Departments and other partner groups.
- ⚙ Housing improvement projects and neighborhood plan updates are ongoing within City neighborhoods, in conjunction with a Community Code Compliance Team public education campaign.
- ⚙ City employees are continuing to train in National Incident Management System procedures as means of enhancing the City’s emergency management capabilities. City staff will participate in an emergency management practical exercise during October, 2012.
- ⚙ Installation of emergency call stations along the Wards Road Pedestrian Trail is in progress. Installation of call stations along the Bluff Walk Trail is planned.

## Critical Issues/Concerns for the Future

- ⚙ Maintaining an adequately competitive public safety pay structure and rebuilding a more experienced police force remain ongoing challenges.
- ⚙ Based on our experience in managing the long-term effects of the June 29, 2012 derecho windstorm, City staff are exploring means of implementing some form of “reverse 911” public notification system.
- ⚙ Maintaining a safe and vibrant community environment demands ongoing focus and commitment in the areas of neighborhood development and community member engagement.



## Transportation

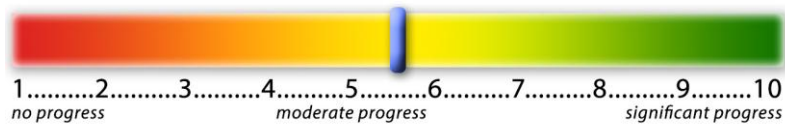


City Council Assessment • September 2011 • Moderate



Staff Assessment • December 2012 • Moderate

**Staff Assessment:** Staff assessment is that City-wide progress toward accomplishing Transportation goals and objectives is continuing. City staff, VDOT, GLTC and various private partners have worked together successfully during this period in expanding public transportation facilities. Continuing progress is ongoing in the areas of multi-modal facilities, major road improvements, traffic signal enhancements, and lobbying for additional funding.



City Council Assessment of Progress • December 2012 • Moderate

**Survey Analysis:** City Council (5.6) and staff (6.0) rated progress on Transportation similarly. In September 2011, City Council rated progress on this element at 5.0. Four Council members rated progress on Transportation in FY 2012 at 5.0, two rated progress at 6.0 and 1 rated progress at 7.0.

### City Council comment:

- "GLTC problem resolution was a big plus in this area."

# Transportation

## Major Accomplishments

- ⚙ Traffic Signal Conversions – LED bulbs installed throughout City to reduce energy usage and maintenance.
- ⚙ Pedestrian Bridge and Trails – Pedestrian access to shopping from Liberty and reducing the number of vehicle trips.

## Major Works in Progress

- ⚙ GLTC Transfer Center – New center to consolidate multi-modal transportation in one area including extra parking and pedestrian facilities.
- ⚙ Wards Road Traffic Adaptive Signalization – An optimization of signal timings through Locally Intelligent Actuation for better traffic flows and less delays.
- ⚙ Lakeside/Memorial/Park – Replacement of traffic signal to include missing turn lanes and pedestrian features at intersection supporting a school, library and park.
- ⚙ LRTAG – Lynchburg Regional Transportation Action Group continuing to gain support and meeting with State Senators and Representatives to increase local funding.

## Critical Issues/Concerns for the Future

- ⚙ Odd Fellows Road – With VDOT moving forward with the interchange, there could be a missing link of improvements for pedestrian and vehicular users between Lynchburg Expressway and 460 Bypass.
- ⚙ Adaptive Signalization for Timberlake, Candler's Mountain and Rivermont – Areas to plan to install intelligent system for coordinated traffic flows.
- ⚙ Lakeside Drive at College Street – Possible improvements for pedestrian movements around college, improvements to intersection with roundabout and the extension of Creekside Trail.